

REMARKS

35 USC §112

The Office objected that claim 1 is indefinite with respect to the language "automatically relocks the cover when retracted". Applicant agrees, and amends the claim with clarifying language to specify that the self-locking release assembly unlocks the cover when a trigger is operated, so that the cover can be retracted, and re-engages the locking assembly upon manual retraction of the cover, so that the cover automatically locks in place when the cover is returned to the safety position.

The Office also objected to claim 3 as being having insufficient antecedent basis for the term "the trigger". The applicant agrees, and overcomes the objection by recitation of "a trigger" in claim 1.

The Office also objected to claim 4 as being indefinite with respect to the term "inferior". The applicant disagrees with that objection. The term "inferior" is well understood in science to mean on the underside of something. In medicine for example, the neck is inferior to the head, and the feet are inferior to the legs. The opposite of inferior is superior.

35 USC §102

Claims 1- 5 were rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by Stevenson (US 4091537).


Those rejections are obviated by the amendments herein. None of the cited art teaches, suggests, or motivates one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a knife having a mechanism that is responsive to use of the blade for cutting, and that automatically re-locks the protective covering to prevent more than a single use of the blade until the trigger is once again operated -- where the blade cover covers a cutting edge and at least a portion of a side of the blade. Stevenson fails to show a blade protector that does not cover a cutting edge and at least a portion of a side of the blade.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

Claims 1-5 are pending in this application. The applicants request allowance of all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

Rutan & Tucker,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'R. D. Fish', is written over a horizontal line.

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